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UNCLAS THE HAGUE 003206

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

STATE FOR WHA/AND AND WHA/USOAS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [NL](#) [BL](#)

SUBJECT: NETHERLANDS/BOLIVIA: DUTCH MAY CONSIDER SENDING MONITORS

REF: SECSTATE 214591

1. (SBU) The Netherlands is receptive to the Bolivian government's call for bilateral assistance to the Organization of American States (OAS) mission to monitor the December 18 general elections. The Netherlands has provided US\$100,000 to the mission and has pushed for EU support of the mission. The Dutch are prepared to consider a request to provide monitors, but believe other nations may be in a better position to do so.

2. (SBU) Dimitri Vogelaar (Bolivia Desk Officer, MFA), told Poloff November 29 that the Dutch would seriously consider providing election observers to the OAS mission per reftel. Vogelaar promised to forward the request to the Dutch Embassy in La Paz and to the Dutch MFA office responsible for providing election monitors to various missions. He cautioned, however, that the Swedes and Danes may be in a better position to provide personnel to the OAS mission than the Dutch given their larger representations in La Paz. He added that the relatively small Dutch presence in Bolivia would not impede the Dutch Ambassador to Bolivia from giving consideration to the Bolivian government's request.

3. (SBU) The Dutch regret the EU's decision to forego provision of election monitors to the OAS mission in Bolivia but find it nonetheless pragmatic. Vogelaar explained that the EU has prioritized careful observation of the Venezuelan elections, which are taking place concurrent to the Bolivian elections. Vogelaar intimated that resource constraints keep the EU from effectively monitoring both elections simultaneously.

BLAKEMAN